

THE ROLE OF COLLEGE LIBRARIES IN EFFECTIVE LEARNING OF COLLEGE STUDENTS: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BAKSA DISTRICT OF ASSAM

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Abstract

Library is the center of knowledge, through which we can have various information on different field as we want. So, without a well collection library the main aim of any educational institution cannot be fulfilled. In the present era library is regarded as the heart of any educational institution. The college library is the central of learning and plays a key role as a place for encouraging innovation, curiosity and problem solving as well as support for teaching and learning throughout the college. So, the college libraries of baksa district of Assam have been studied to know the role of college libraries in effective learning of their role in providing various services at college. In the entire district there are only five provincialized colleges, where the services provided by the college libraries are not satisfactory in comparison to the era of science and technology. So, to know the role of college libraries in effective learning of college students a survey method with a questionnaire has been prepared for all college librarians. And it is found that the surveyed college libraries are yet to realize the various modern services like CAS, SDI, OPAC, Indexing, Abstracting etc. And students are only receiving the general services like circulation, cataloguing (manually) etc. In the paper the computer application, services provided, collection etc. are discussed in details.

Keywords: College Libraries, ICT, Library 2.0, Services.

1.0 Introduction

Library is the heart of any educational institution, without which any educational institution cannot expect. The library plays a vital role in providing the various information and academic curriculum of the students and teachers as well as to whole college family and use of libraries for reading and reference is an integral part of learning, teaching and research. Libraries in colleges provide facilities for students, teachers as well as other employees of college to read and consult them for reference, thus provide widening scope of learning. So, we know that college education is completely different environment in comparison to school education system, where students are likely independent and self-learning. So, here college libraries plays a major role in providing the required knowledge of the students. So, the collection should be done taking into account the as demand of the users. The library collections plays a major role in providing services to the users. And when students or users will get their required information properly then the demand of the library increased.

1.1 Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study is to know the role of the college libraries of different colleges of baksa district in effective learning of college students, which is the part and parcel of any educational institution. And some important objectives of the study are:

- To know the library collection, services provided by the college libraries.
- To know the status of using ICT of the college libraries.
- To know the manpower of the surveyed college libraries.
- To know about the use of library resources by the students.

2.0 Methodology, Scope and Limitation of the study

The paper is based on a survey with a well prepared questionnaire by the author. To know the role of college libraries in effective learning of college students in the said district, which was used as a tool for gathered the data. There are only five provincialized colleges in the entire district. These colleges are affiliated by the UGC, and receives various grants and financial assistance for the development of the college as well as library. In this study only provincialized colleges has been taken into account and semi government or other private degree colleges are excluded from the study.

4.0 Role of college libraries in effective learning

As we have come to know that the college education system is a completely different from any other educational system. Where students are likely independent and depend on self-learning. In college, the libraries have to play a vital role in providing education to the students and regarded as the focal point of learning. So, without a well collection library and active library staff of the college education system is likely failure in providing the education. So, there are some most important functions of college libraries. These are:

- Provide the adequate reading facilities
- Preparing the students and providing the various current and important knowledge's of the outside world.
- Preparing the students to be a responsible person in the society.
- Providing the students deeper and wider knowledge on various disciplines.
- Help the faculty and students in their research work etc.

But, to fulfill the above functions into reality the library needs some most important components. These are:

- Well collections learning materials.
- Well trained professional and sufficient staff.
- Sufficient infrastructure.
- Sufficient finance and budget.

To provide the important information as required by the teachers or students the collection should be informative. The services of the library based on the quality collection of library materials, so the library collection should be done very sincerely and with the help of subject experts so that the documents should be maximum used. Generally, the college libraries provides some important services to the college family which are important in acquiring knowledge as well as their academic life. The services are:

- Lending service.
- Reading room service.
- Information and reference service.
- Display of current journals and new acquisition to the library.
- Assistance in the use of library.
- Audio-visual services.
- CAS, SDI, Indexing, Abstracting services.
- Reprography services etc.

The above mentioned functions and services are the most important and indispensable services of the any modern college library. Without those services a library can be said as the failure in providing the effective services to the students in their learning.

5.0 Impact of Web 2.0/ library 2.0 on college students

Web 2.0 is a set of technologies and service that allows people to contribute as much as they consume. The term "Web 2.0" was officially coined in 2004 by Dale Dougherty, a vice-president of O'Reilly Media Inc., during a team discussion on a potential future conference about the Web. The web 2.0 technologies rely on user generated content and support the provision of interaction among them.

The term library 2.0 was coined by Michael Casey on his blog Library Crunch as a direct pin-off of the terms Business 2.0. Library 2.0 is a model for a modernized form of library services that reflects a transition within the library world where the library services are user centered and promote participation among the user in the creation of content and a library community. Library 2.0 or Web 2.0 are the user friendly applications where users can directly contact through the Personal Digital assistant from their home and can search or find their require information by just clicking it. Though the students of modern era are aware enough in modern technology and excited in new innovation. Thus the Some of the most useable web 2.0/ Library 2.0 technologies are

Blog: It is a web-based publication consisting primarily of periodic articles normally in reverse chronological order with reflections, comments, and often hyperlinks provided by the writer.

Bookmarking: It allows users to create lists of “bookmarks” or “favorites”, to store these centrally on a remote service (rather than within the client browser) and to share them with other users of the system. Examples include dig, del.icio.us, Netvouz, furl, Connected and CiteULike.

Crowdsourcing: The term crowdsourcing was coined by Wired journalist Jeff Howe to conceptualize a process of Web-based out-sourcing for the procurement of media content, small tasks, even solutions to scientific problems from the crowd gathered on the Internet.

Folksonomy: The term folksonomy is generally acknowledged to have been coined by Thomas Vander Wal. It is a collection of tags created by an individual for their own personal use. Folksonomy is the result of personal free tagging of information and objects (anything with a URL) for one’s own retrieval. Examples include discogs.com for music and LibraryThing.

Mashup: A mashup is an element that combines information from multiple systems using Web Services to provide an aggregate service. Personal home pages are an example of a mashup that combines information from disparate sources to a single, personalized web page. E.g. IGoogle Page.

Podcasts: Podcasts are audio recordings, usually in MP3 format, of talks, interviews and lectures, which can be played either on a desktop computer or on a wide range of handheld MP3 devices.

RSS Feed Aggregation Tool: RSS feed aggregation tools gather information from diverse sources across the Web and publish in one place.

RSS: RSS is a family of formats which allow users to find out about updates to the content of RSS-enabled websites, blogs or podcasts without actually having to go and visit the site.

Social Network: A social network or online community is a web based service focuses on building online communities of people who share interests and / or activities by a variety of ways. Example. YouTube (video) Flickr (photographs) and audio (podcasts), Myspace, and Facebook.

Tagging: A tag is a keyword that is added to a digital object (e.g. a website, picture or video clip) to describe it, but not as part of a formal classification system.

Wiki: A wiki is a type of editable website that allows users to add, remove, or otherwise edit and change most content very quickly and easily, sometimes without the need for registration by using relatively easy to use wiki syntax.

6.0 Data analysis and Discussions

6.1 Basic Information about the surveyed colleges

In the following table the five colleges of the district has been arranged in chronological order by the year of establishment. Where Barama College is the oldest college of the district with Arts and Science stream. No any colleges of the district is “A” grade college which is accredited by NAAC. The colleges of the district found to be distributed from 1971 to 1983 as per the year of establishment. Most of the colleges are established during the year

1970, and only one is the 1993. No any colleges of the district have Arts, Science and Commerce streams in one college. Most of the colleges have two streams, like Goreswar College has also only Arts and Commerce stream only.

Table 1. The surveyed college libraries of Baksa as per the year of establishment and location and number of students of particular colleges are given

Sr. No.	Name of the college	Year of establishment	Location	No. of students
1	Barama College	1971	Barama Town	1500
2	Goreswar College	1974	Goreswar	2232
3	B.B Kishan College	1978	Jalaghat	1600
4	Salbari College	1983	Salbari	1180
5	Gyanpith Degree College	1993	Nikashi	650

6.2 Library Collections

Table no 2. Shows the various types of information or collections consists in the specific library

Sr. No.	Name of the college library	Text Books	Reference Books	Journals	Periodicals	Total Resources
1	Barama College	31744	2413	10	4	34171
2	Goreswar College	18200	14825	3	3	33031
3	B.B Kishan Colle	17317	10	4	2	17333
4	Salbari College	6000	700	7	2	6709
5	Gyanpith Degree	9850	1200	12	6	11068

Through the table 2 we have come to know that the text book is the highest collections in every surveyed libraries. There is no any E-journals, E-book in any library. But the above mentioned two resources are very essential in the present time because of coming concept of “information explosions”. Due to “information explosions” no any library can acquired all the required documents of the users, so in this case E-resources, E-books are helps to the readers from getting their information within a very short period of time available. So, after doing analysis of gathered data we have found that the Baksa district college libraries are out of using modern technology and their housekeeping works like circulation, cataloguing etc. are also done manually. So we can say that the provincialized college libraries of Baksa district are underdeveloped and not providing services as required by the students or users community.

6.3 Library staff, qualification, designation and total staff

Table 2 shows about the manpower of the surveyed college libraries as well as their qualifications, designation etc.

Sr. no	Name of Libraries	Designation		Qualification		Lib. Staff			Others	Total
		Librarian/I/C	Astt. Librarian	General	Profession als	Profe sessional	Semi Prof.	Non Prof.		
1	Barama College	Librarian	No	B.Sc.	MLISc	1	1	2	No	4
2	Goreswar College	Librarian	No	B.Sc.	MLISc	1	1	2	1	5
3	B.B Kishan College	Librarian	1	B.A	MLISC	1	1	1	No	4
4	Salbari College	No	1	B.A	No	No	1	1	No	2
5	Gyanpeeth Degee College	Librarian	No	B.A	No	No	1	3	No	4

Through the above table we have come to know that among five surveyed college libraries there are four librarians in four colleges, and except one college there are no assistant librarian, from this we can say that the manpower of the surveyed college library is not satisfied and after observing the manpower of the library that the said college libraries are unable to play a vital role in their effective learning.

6.4 Having Computer knowledge of library personnel

Table 3 shows the staff of surveyed college libraries having computer knowledge

Sl no	Name of the Library	Total staff	No. of staff having computer knowledge
1	Barama College		1
2	Goreswar College		1
3	B.B Kishan College		No
4	Salbari College		No
5	Gyanpeeth Degree College		1

From above table 3 we can say that, in this era of technology most of the college libraries have only one library personnel having computer knowledge and two colleges don't have a computer knowledgeable person, then how we

can expect a sufficient services from the library. And with those only one person we cannot expect a automated library.

6.5 Services or used of knowledge offered by surveyed college libraries

Table no 6 shows the various services provided by the surveyed college libraries of Baksa district

Sl No.	Name of the college library	Circulation	Cataloguing	Repro	O/S	I/S	CAS	LAN	Email	T/S
1	Barama College	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	5
2	Goreswar College	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	3
3	B.B Kishan College	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	2
4	Salbari College	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	1
5	Gyanpith Degree College	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	4

In any library providing services to the users is the main duty of the library personnel, so the surveyed library also provides some basic services to the users. Through the above table we have got that the surveyed libraries provide only circulation service, cataloguing service manually but no any library provides modern services like CAS, SDI, Online service Etc. Because through above data we have come to know that don't have sufficient manpower and well trained library staff then how it will be possible to provide such informative service.

7.0 Findings:

- The surveyed college libraries of the district provide their most of the major library services manually, because of this readers don't get modern services like online service, E-journal service etc.
- The all surveyed libraries are provided circulation service and except Salbari College all are have cataloguing service.
- E-mail service is provided by Barama College only and internet services are provided by Barama College and Gyanpith Degree College and reprography services are provided by Barama College, Goreswar College, and Gyanpith Degree College except Salbari College and B. B Kishan College.
- Among the five college libraries Barama College has the highest collection of text books and no any college libraries has the E-book and E-journals.
- Every surveyed college libraries has the reference books, journals, periodicals etc.
- Among five surveyed college libraries there is no professional librarian in two colleges.
- There is no assistant librarian except one college.
- In the surveyed college libraries there are no well-trained library staff.
- Among five college libraries only three libraries have only one library professional having computer knowledge.
- All surveyed college libraries provides circulation services.
- Except one all libraries are provided cataloguing services.
- Among five three colleges provide reprography services.
- No any library provides modern services like CAS, LAN, Indexing, Abstracting etc. services.

8.0 Suggestion

As we know that the library is the heart of any educational institution and library plays a major role in acquiring various knowledge's to fit in this competitive world, So it's very important to improve the condition of the library or mood of services provided, application of IT in the housekeeping works of the library. So, after the study we have come to know that the surveyed college libraries are unable to play a perfect role in providing the required information to the students. So, to improve the condition of the library after the study some suggestions has been put. These are:

- The UGC or Government should be sincere in appointing the library personnel in the library so that the employee can face the challenges with the modern technology of the library.
- The UGC or Government should filled up all the vacant post of the library then only we can expect a well services from the library.
- The University authority or Government need to take care the colleges of rural areas also and advice to conduct various workshop or seminars time to time.
- The University or Government need to take special initiative to develop the college library of rural areas, generally which is not happening.
- In every college libraries there should be a professional Assistant librarian and manpower should as required then only help the students and can provide effective services.
- The college authority should encouraged the librarian as well other library stuff to attend workshop, seminar program, refresher courses organize by various organization which give energy and encouraged to provide effective services.
- The college authority should be interested in making computerization of a library then only librarian can provides various types of modern services.
- Except librarian there must be a other library staff having computer knowledge then only librarian can provides various modern services as required by the modern technology.
- The UGC or Government should keep their one eye on the development of the library to meet the challenges with modern technology. Because, we know that the equipment's for the library automation are so costly, so parent organization cannot maintain all this.
- As we know that the library is the heart of the institution without which a educational institution cannot be regarded as academic institution so the authority of the colleges should give emphasized on development of the library.
- The UGC or government need to be conducted the training program for the non-professional library staff also. Then they will also become aware about the library activities, because only professional staff cannot maintain the library.

9.0 Conclusions

The library is the main organization in the college premises in providing quality education to the students. If library don't play active role in providing various information to the students then they have to stay far from getting important information on different fields. So, to make the good education environment and students fit for competitive world then the condition of the library must be good. But we have seen the giving importance in the library is not satisfactory. We know that the "INFLIBNET" is providing free software in free of cost for the development and automation of library for North-Eastern region, but most of the colleges are not enjoying this great opportunity. So, it's the time to change and library stuff need to be sincere enough about those information.

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